NANTYGLO & BLAINA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR 1947

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Annual Report for the Year 1947

To the Chairman and Members of the
Nantyglo & Blaina Urban District Council.

Mrs. Evans and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting my report for the year 1947.

Section A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area of District	3,862 Acres
Estimate of Population, 1921	16,453
do. do. 1931	13,190
do. do. 1941	12,440
do. do. 1945	11,410
do. do. 1946	11,540
do. do. 1947	11,460
Number of Inhabited Houses	3,150
do. Families (estimated)	3,390
Rateable Value of the District	£31,820
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ...	£108/18/0

VITAL STATISTICS.

Number of Births	240
do. Legitimate Births :- Boys 131 ; Girls 103	
do. Illegitimate Births :- Boys 2 ; Girls 4	
Birth Rate per 1,000 of Population ...	20·9
do. do. do. (Mon. County)	21·3
do. do. do. (England & Wales)	20·5
Number of Still Births :- 3 Boys ; 5 Girls...	8
Still Births per 1,000 of Population ...	0·69
do. do. do. (Mon. County)	0·59
do. do. do. (England & Wales)	0·50
Number of Deaths ... Males 80 ; Females 68...	148
Death Rate per 1,000 of Population ...	12·9
do. do. do. (Mon. County)	12·3
do. do. do. (England & Wales)	12·0

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE.

	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938
Number of Deaths (under 1 year)	16	9	12	16	9	11	19	11	16	17
Number of Births	240	225	203	217	219	223	204	189	191	167
Mortality Rate	66·6	40·0	59·1	73·7	41·1	49·3	93·1	58·2	83·7	101·8

Particulars of Deaths of Children under 1 year.

Under 1 week	6	1—3 months	4	Total under 1 Year ...	16
1—2 weeks	1	3—6 months	3		
2—3 weeks	0	6—9 months	1		
3—4 weeks	0	9—12 months	1		
	7		9		

Total Number of Births ... 240 Total Number of Deaths ... 16

Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births ... 66·6

1947. Analysis of Total Cases of Infectious Diseases according to Age Groups.														Deaths from Infectious Cases according to Age Groups.												
DISEASE	Under 1 year	1—2 years	2—3 years	3—4 years	4—5 years	5—10 years	10—15 years	15—20 years	20—35 years	35—45 years	45—65 years	65 and over	Total	Under 1 year	1—2 years	2—3 years	3—4 years	4—5 years	5—10 years	10—15 years	15—20 years	20—35 years	35—45 years	45—65 years	65 and over	Total	Number Admitted to Hospital
Scarlet Fever	...	...	1	2	6	6	1	...	2	...	...	...	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	1	12	15	22	21	13	2	...	1	...	...	...	87	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	1	2	2	3	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	2	2	...	...	1	2	...	...	1	3	2	...	13	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	3	11	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		1	2	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	4	16	18	27	30	23	3	...	4	4	4	...	133	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	3	11	...
TUBERCULOSIS.																											
Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	...	...	...	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	1	...	6	...
Non-Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	...	...	...	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	1	...	6	...

Deaths from All Causes during the Year 1947.

DISEASE	Under 1 yr.	1—2 years	2—3 years	3—4 years	4—5 years	5—10 years	10—15 years	15—20 years	20—35 years	35—45 years	45—65 years	65 and over	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	1	...	3	3	6
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		1	...	1	...	2	...	2
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	2	1	3
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	12	7	9	16
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1
Intra-Cranial and Vascular Lesions	...	...	...	...		...	...	...	...	...	5	11	9	7	16
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	8	38	25	24	49
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	8	6	4	10
Pneumonia	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	3	4	7	11
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1
Duodenal Ulcer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	3		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1
Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	3	...	3
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	2	3	2	5
Congenital Diseases	5	...	...	...		...	...		...	...	...	...	2	3	5
Premature Birth	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	4
Violent Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	2	3
All other causes	...		...	...	...	...	...	...	1		2	4	6	1	7
Total ...	16	...		...	...	1	...	...	8	6	35	82	80	68	148

Analysis of Infectious Diseases according to Wards and Districts.

DISEASE	WARDS			TOTAL	DISTRICTS		TOTAL
	North	Central	South		Nantyglo	Blaina	
Scarlet Fever	11	6	1	18	13	5	18
Measles	51	16	22	89	54	35	89
Whooping Cough	10	0	0	10	10	0	10
Pneumonia	12	1	0	13	12	1	13
Erysipelas	2	1	0	3	2	1	3
Totals ...	86	24	23	133	91	42	133
Tuberculosis :							
Pulmonary	5	2	2	9	5	4	9
Non-Pulmonary ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	5	2	2	9	5	4	9

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The District is situated at the North end of the County of Monmouth, and is bounded on the West by the Ebbw Vale District, on the South by the Abertillery Urban District, and on the North by the Brynmawr Urban District.

Coal Mining is the chief Industry.

The minor industries are :—

(1) THE POWLEY PRODUCTS employing at the end of 1947 42 Men, 29 Women.

(2) LUXTON'S GLOVES AND STEPHENS LEATHERCRAFT employing 4 Men, 76 Women.

(3) WEBSTERS (MON.) LTD. employing 13 Men, 4 Women.

Fifty-one people are employed at the ENFIELD FACTORY.

The number of people employed in the Building Industry is about 150. This number is fluctuating.

The total number of unemployed in the district is :—145 Men, 211 Women. 4 Boys, 15 Girls. Of this number 7 Men and 16 Women are temporarily employed.

Section B.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

The Public Health Staff engaged by the Council are myself as Medical Officer of Health (part time) and a whole time Sanitary Inspector who holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and the Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate. One half of the salaries are paid by the County Council.

Facilities are provided by the County Authority for the examination of Pathological and Bacteriological specimens of water, milk and food stuffs. Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied free by the Council and is kept by me for the use of medical practitioners who require it.

There are no Ambulance facilities provided by the Council.

There are two Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, one at Nantyglo and one at Blaina.

The nearest clinic for Venereal Diseases is at the Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport.

A Tuberculosis Clinic is held at Abertillery. The clinic at Brynmawr has been discontinued because of the inability to find suitable accommodation.

Patients who are too ill to attend may be visited in the home with a view to being admitted to one of the hospitals under the Association.

An Orthopaedic Clinic is held at the Nantyglo and Blaina Hospital periodically.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Sessions for the Immunisation of children have been held at regular intervals throughout the year. The homes are visited by the County nurse. Parents wishing to have their child immunised make their request to the Nurse, or at the Council Offices, or to the Medical Officer of Health.

Notifications are then sent to the homes stating place, date, and time of the Session.

The response is good on the whole, but still some parents fail to attend with their children after frequent notifications following their request that their child should be immunised.

Since Immunisation commenced in 1941 the following are figures carried on from year to year.

COURSE COMPLETED.

	Under 5 years	5—15 years
1941	20	1202
1942	285	1478
1943	584	1586
1944	625	1663
1945	680	1716
1946	898	1723
1947	1029	1733

Of the above the following were immunised during 1947 :

Under 5 years of age ...	131
5 – 15 years of age ...	10
Total ...	141

We estimate that the percentage of children now in our district who have been immunised is—

Under 5 years of age ...	82%
5–15 years of age ...	90%

No case of Diphtheria was notified during the year.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

There are three midwives practising in the area appointed by the County Council.

There is a District Nursing Association at Blaina affiliated to the Queen's Institute of District Nursing. A nurse attached to the Institute is employed by the Association.

There is a similar District Nursing Association at Nantyglo affiliated to the Monmouthshire Nursing Association. The expenses of maintenance of the nurse in both districts is met by voluntary contribution.

HOSPITALS.

There is one General Hospital in the district with a capacity of 33 beds, 18 male, 8 female and 6 children. In addition there is a Maternity Wing of the Hospital with accommodation for mothers and their babies.

This wing is not now used for the purpose for which it was intended owing to difficulties of staffing.

The hospital is equipped with X-Ray, Ultra-Violet Ray and other Electrical Apparatus.

A certain number of beds are available for necessitous cases at the Public Assistance Hospital, Ty Bryn, Tredegar. There is a Maternity Hospital for unmarried mothers at Nantyderry to which the County Council contributes annually. It has accommodation for 16 women.

Provision is made by the County Authority for the isolation and treatment of Smallpox cases.

Typhoid cases and other cases of Infectious Diseases which cannot be treated in the home are treated by arrangement with a Fever Hospital in another district.

Section C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water is good but the supply in several parts of Nantyglo and the North end of Blaina is very unsatisfactory.

The water has to be turned off in the lower part of the area for a portion of each day to allow of a supply to the upper part of the district.

This unsatisfactory supply of water is a great inconvenience to the Hospital which is situated in the North of our district.

The water in this area is liable to plumbo solvent action, due to the peatly nature of the collecting ground, consequently the Council do not allow the use of lead pipes for drinking water supply.

The number of houses supplied from public water main is 3,130.

Approximate population supplied from public mains, 11,385.

Twenty-three examinations have been made during the year. Bacteriological examinations and Chemical Analysis were made in each case.

Three of these proved to be unsatisfactory bacteriologically.

On this occasion the inhabitants were advised to boil all drinking water.

DRAINAGE-SEWERAGE.

Drainage-Sewerage is on the water carriage system.

The Subsidiary Sewers are connected up with the Western Valley (Mon.) Main Trunk Sewer, which discharges into the Sea at low water, West of the mouth of the Usk.

At Brynteg, Blaina, we have the combined system of surface water Sewerage-Drainage.

A new Surface Water Drainage is very necessary in this area to relieve abnormal pressure which sometimes occurs in the present sewer.

RIVERS-STREAMS.

There is still some pollution of the river, the whole length should be covered in, but this is particularly necessary at Farm Road and Felin Fwg.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There were no conversions from conservancy system during the year.

Of the 3,150 houses in the district 550 were fitted with flush tanks, the remainder are hand flushed.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

This is still unsatisfactory. The householders are repeatedly warned, but they still deposit their refuse in open spaces near their homes. This will not be remedied until each householder has a suitable dust-bin for the storage of domestic refuse prior to collection.

We have one cesspool in our district, namely, at Cinder Tip Cottages.

This normally drains through the large cinders but occasionally requires cleansing.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

No action has been found necessary during the year under the provision of the Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and the temperature of the Shops and to Sanitary convenience.

A part-time Shop Inspector officiates in the area. The total number of shops in the district is 134. Total number of visits made to shops during the year in respect of the Young Persons (Employment) Act. 1938, were fifty-two.

MARINE STORES.

There are five registered Marine Stores in the district. These are inspected periodically. No rag flock is made or sold in the area.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was necessary with a view to abatement of nuisance from smoke.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Complaints were received from three houses during the year.

The houses were visited by the Sanitary Officers, and were sprayed with insecticide in powder and liquid form.

The householders were instructed in the method of preventing re-infestation.

SWIMMING POOLS.

There are no publicly or privately owned Swimming Baths in the area.

The ponds are still used in spite of the fact that they are dangerous, and have been proved by bacteriological examinination to be contaminated and quite unfit to be used as swimming pools.

SCHOOLS.

The schools of the district have been visited on several occasions during the year.

The Infants' Department of the Nantyglo School was closed during an epidemic of Measles.

It was not found necessary to close the other schools in the area.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Number of Factories on Register Dec. 31st, 1947	13
Number of Inspections	24
WRITTEN NOTICES :	
(1) Want of Cleanliness ...	3
(2) Insufficient Sanitary Conveniences	2

All notices were complied with.

RODENT CONTROL.

There is a whole-time Rodent Officer employed in the Health Department.

(*a*) Number of Premises surveyed (including Private and Business Premises...	600
(*b*) Number of Premises treated ...	235
(*c*) Number of Sewer treatments ...	1
(*d*) River Bank treatments ...	1

All Culverts, Waterways, and Refuse Dumps were kept under observation and treated where necessary.

Section D

HOUSING.

I.—Inspection of dwelling houses during the year—

(1) (*a*) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts, 1936) 378

(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 378

(2) (*a*) Number of dwelling houses included under 1 above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925–1932 ... 84

(*b*) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ... 84

(3) Number of dwellings found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation 3

(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation... Nil

II.—Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 40

III.—Action under the Statutory Powers during the year.

(*a*) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, 11, 12 and 16 of Housing Acts, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling house in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 9

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice—

(*a*) By Owners 5

(*b*) By Local Authority ... ... Nil

(*b*) Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 1

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice.

(*a*) By Owners 1

(*b*) By the Authority in default of Owner .. ... Nil

Section E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.—

Periodic visits are paid to Fried Fish Shops, Bakehouses, Butchers' Shops, Provision Stores, Cowsheds, Farms and Purveyors of Milk.

MILK SUPPLY—

The greater portion of the Milk is brought in from places outside the area.

Number of Cow-keepers on register Dec., 1947 ... 5
Number of Milk Purveyors on register Dec., 1947 ... 13
(This number includes the Cow-keepers who are also Purveyors).

	Heat-Treated	Raw	Total
Number of Samples taken...	24	11	35
Satisfactory	16	6	22
Unsatisfactory	8	5	13

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT, Etc.) REGULATION, 1947.

Under these Regulations there are two methods of manufacture.

(*a*) Heat Treatment.
(*b*) Complete Cold Mix.

We have in this area eleven premises registered for the sale or manufacture of Ice Cream.

They are as follows :—

(*a*) Heat Treatment	1
(*b*) Complete Cold Mix	3
(*c*) Premises where Ice Cream is sold...	7
Total	11

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The following is the number of animals slaughtered and the amount of Meat and Offal condemned at the Government Controlled Abattoir, Brynmawr :

(*a*) Total Killed—Cattle		2,510
Calves		2,334
Sheep		15,413
Pigs		10

(*b*) Whole carcases condemned not including T.B.—7 Cattle, 4 Calves, 33 Sheep, Pigs nil.

(*c*) Parts of Carcases and Organs condemned not including T.B.—Cattle 744, Calves nil, Sheep 2,283, Pigs nil.

(*d*) % of number inspected affected by disease other than T.B. (Carcases and Organs)—Cattle 29·92, Calves 0·17, Sheep 15·03, Pigs nil.

(*e*) Whole carcases affected by Tuberculosis—21 Cattle, 1 Calf, Sheep and Pigs nil.

(*f*) Parts of Carcases or Organs affected by T.B.—Cattle 383, Calves nil, Sheep nil, Pigs 2.

(*g*) Percentage of Carcases and Organs—Cattle 16·1, Calves 0·04, Sheep nil, Pigs 2·0

Total Condemnations—29 Tons. 19 cwt. 2 qrs. 0 lbs.

Other Foods condemned include Meats, Fish, Vegetables, Soups, Milk, Fruit (tinned or otherwise), Sugar, Bacon, Butter, Eggs (imported). Total : 317 tins.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Members of the Council, your Clerk (Mr. G. R. Jenkins), your Sanitary Inspector, your Financial Officer, and other Members of the Council Staff for their kindness and ready co-operation throughout the year.

I am, your obedient servant,

FLORENCE M. WALLEN-GUNN,

Medical Officer of Health.